

KUDOS

CDF Communications Support Praised

I sincerely want to thank the CDF and especially two of your employees for their support and expertise provided throughout the recent incidents in the Imperial Sand Dunes. Scotty Preston and Geoff Pemberton, who ran COM-31 out of Riverside County, certainly were one of the major reasons for the tremendous success that we had over these four events. The use of the Incident Command System (ICS) for the command and control of our Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical activities was a first for the BLM. Initially there were concerns on how well the ICS system would work outside of Fire. These two gentlemen along with many other CDF personnel made it look like we have been doing this for years. They gained the support and respect of the Law Enforcement and EMS personnel, and certainly were one of the main reasons for the success and safety of this mission.

Not only did they provide the communications support, but on several occasions they were tasked with providing EMS response for the public. Their efforts have had a tremendous effect on the way we support the public and how the majority of the public has seen what our agencies can do in making the Imperial Sand Dunes a safer place to recreate. Together we have made a difference that I am proud of, and you can be very proud of your personnel that supported the BLM in these efforts.

Again, I want to thank you and your personnel for the outstanding performance and support that the CDF has given to the Bureau of Land Management. Please pass along our sincere thanks and this small token of our appreciation to Mr. Preston and Mr. Pemberton.

Mike Pool
State Director
Bureau of Land Management

Karen Terrill Awarded SiOC's Lifetime Achievement Award

By Linda Cano Public Affairs Secretary

Congratulations to Karen Terrill, for receiving the California State Information Officers Council's Lifetime Achievement Award. On April 11, 2002, Karen was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award by The California State Information Officers Council SiOC at its annual awards luncheon which honors excellence in government communication. Besides the Lifetime Achievement Award, Karen also received an award for Excellence in writing a news release, "State Fire Marshal Warning-Alternate Energy Sources Can Be Dangerous" and a speech writing award for "Internet Crimes Against Children".

Karen has been the Chief Information Officer for CDF for the past 16 years, and has worked sometimes endlessly with the media to always give the most concise and accurate information about issues dealing with our Department. Karen is very conscientious about always putting the Department's best foot forward. She has a great appreciation for CDF and is very proud of the critical work our Department does for the State of California.

Besides being CDF's Information Officer she is also an instructor at the California Specialized Training Institute where she teaches crisis communications to CDF information officers from all over the state.

This is another example of Karen's excellence in the field of communications. With so many reporters putting themselves in harm's way while covering our states wildland fires, Karen decided to create a safety training class in order to help the media do their job safely. With the help of other concerned CDF'ers John Craney, Chris Parker, Bob Signor and Norm Benson, they developed a 4 hour course that covers matters from media laws to fire behavior. Reporters also get instruction on how to properly deploy a fire shelter. The course is offered every year as fire season is declared. I'm sure the reporters who take this course come out with a greater appreciation and knowledge of how to stay safe while covering our state's wildfires.

Again, congratulations Karen for an award well deserved.

First CDF DMAT

From the 14th of July through the 20th I was privileged to be assigned to the Mussolini fire as one of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) team medical providers. We were fortunate enough to have assigned as our liaison Division Chief Jim Troehler. I cannot tell you what a wonderful experience Chief Troehler made our first CDF response. He was interested, knowledgeable and kind. He made our jobs relatively effortless with his support and his experience.

I am writing only as an individual, but thank you for assigning Chief Troehler to guide and support us in this effort. Without his presence, I doubt we could have absorbed all we needed to know to fit in, and to provide what was needed at the incident. You have every reason to be proud of Chief Troehler and his interactions with this neophyte group.

Terry Holbrook, FNP
DMAT CA6

Chris Rowney Presented with Resolution for Service with the Board of Forestry

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection presented Chris Rowney with a Resolution having six years of exemplary service to the Board of Forestry. He served simultaneously as both Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing and Acting Executive Officer to the Board. The resolution highlighted Chris' ability to translate his practical on-the-ground forestry knowledge, acquired during his many years in private industry, into balanced and workable solutions within the regulatory context. He became known for his willingness to offer up insight, sound forestry advice, pragmatic solutions and "Copenhagen" at any time to all those who may have asked.

Chris is now Deputy Chief of State Forests and Nurseries.

City of Anaheim Extends Declaration of Appreciation to CDF

In a Declaration, the Anaheim City Council extended a sincere appreciation to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on April 23, 2002 for its on-going support of city urban forestry programs that enhance the livability of our communities and improve the quality of life for all residents.

CDF Firefighters Assist the “Make-a-Wish” Foundation

On Saturday, April 20, 2001 CDF Madera-Mariposa-Merced firefighters Chief Scott Watson, Fire Captain Moe Flemming and Engineers Lisa Nino, David Opfergelt, and Gene Potkey assisted the “Make-a-Wish” Foundation in making four-year-old Madera resident Dennis Rio’s wish to have lunch with firefighters come true. CDF along with Madera County and Madera City firefighters arranged to pick up Dennis at his home and deliver him to a Round Table Pizza Restaurant in Madera. There he dined with the firefighters and then was taken to Fresno for a shopping spree.

The “Make-a-Wish” foundation grants wishes for children diagnosed with terminal illnesses.
